Five-Year Plan periods on account of drive against illiteracy in the country and the amount actually utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) According to 1981 census the illiteracy rate was 63.77 per cent and there were about 42.45 crore illiterate persons in the country (excluding Assam) in all age-groups. The literacy data is collected through the census operation and the position regarding literacy will be known after the next census which is due to be held in 1991.

(b) Of Rs. 92.81 crores earmarked under Central Sector for Adult Education Programme during Sixth Plan, Rs. 92.13 crores has been utilised. Of Rs. 201.50 crores earmarked under Central Sector during first three years of Seventh Plan, Rs 95.33 crores have been utilised upto September, 1987.

Inquiry into DTC Medical Reimbursement Racket

453. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether inquiry regarding medical reimbursement of D.T.C. staff involving crores of rupees has been completed;

(b) if so, the details of the action taken, and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (c) The inquiry in these cases is in progress. The reason for time taken in these cases is the voluminous work involving scrutiny of large number of documents and persons which require considerable time.

Joint Group on Second Hooghly Bridge

454. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 1258 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 29th April, 1987 and state:

(a) whether monitoring by the Joint Group has since given any progress report to Government in regard to Second Hooghly Bridge;

(b) whether the work is progressing as per schedule; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) The High Powered Committee of Directions on Second Hooghly Bridge consisting of very senior officers of the State Government of West Bengal and from the concerned Ministries of the Government of India is reviewing the progress regularly.

(b) and (c) There have been some slippages. Efforts are, however, being made by the State Government to make them up.

Railway accidents

455. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of rail accidents occurred in the last three years (upto date);

(b) the number of persons killed and how many were injured in the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) what steps Railways are proposing to ensure the safety of passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Year-wise break-up of train acci-

dents and casualties during the last three years is as under:—

Year	No. of train accidents	No. of casualties	
		Killed	Injured
1984-85	812	356	858
1985-86	717	214	681
1986-87	644	267	777
1987-88 (April—October)	323	102	242

(c) Some of the important safety measures taken to make rail travel safer are:—

(i) Intensification of field inspections and counselling of staff;

(ii) Identification of accident-prone areas by High level Safety Teams and initiating remedial measures;

(iii) Introduction of modern technological aids like ultrasonic testing of rails and rolling stock axles, provision of track circuiting, axle-counters, auxiliary warning system, etc., subject to overall availability of finance.

(iv) Programmed rehabilitation of rolling stock track, signals gears, bridges and other assets.

(v) Improvement in quality of staff training.

(vi) Intensification of Safety Campaigns.

Resentment in Air-hostesses

456. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a widespread resentment in Air-Hostesses as they are compelled to wear aprons while on flight duty;

(b) the reasons for taking such a decision; and

(c) steps Government propose to take to remove resentment among air-hostesses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Indian Airlines has introduced wearing aprons by air Hostesses during service. This has been done on the recommendations of Chief Air Hostesses with a view to preserving and protecting crirsness and neatness of Air Hostesses' uniforms and also to control a flapping palloo. There is no wide-spread resentment among air hostesses, though a few of them represented.

(c) Does not arise.

Increase in Cargo Handling Capacity of Ports

457. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cargo handling capacity of some of the major ports is being increased in a phased manner over the next few years;

(b) if so, whether the capacity of the Visakhapatnam port is also being increased; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?